

**Department of Health and Human Services
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Cancer Institute**

**Minutes of the State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and
Environmental Research Coordinating Committee**

October 20, 2011

The State-of-the-Science (SOS) Subcommittee of the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee was convened for a meeting on October 20, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. via conference call. The Chair of the subcommittee is Michele Forman, PhD of the University of Texas at Austin.

Subcommittee Members Present

Janice Barlow
Michele Forman
Sandy Haslam
Christine Ambrosone
Neeraja Sathyamoorthy

NIH Staff Present

Jennifer Collins
Laura McGuinn

Others

Ilane Maximo
Kathy Huamani

I. BACKGROUND

The Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (IBCERCC) is a congressionally mandated body established by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This Committee is comprised of 19 voting members, including representatives of Federal agencies; non-federal scientists, physicians, and other health professionals from clinical, basic, and public health sciences; and advocates for individuals with breast cancer.

The Committee's primary mission is to facilitate the efficient and effective exchange of information on breast cancer research activities among the member agencies, and to advise the NIH and other Federal agencies in the solicitation of proposals for collaborative, multidisciplinary research, including proposals to further evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. The Committee serves as a forum and assists in increasing public understanding of the member agencies' activities, programs, policies, and research, and in bringing important matters of interest forward for discussion.

The objectives of the SOS Subcommittee of the IBCERCC are integrated and dependent on the objectives and activities of the other Subcommittees¹ of the IBCERCC and include the following: to summarize the

¹ The other Subcommittees of the IBCERCC are the Research Process Subcommittee (Chair, Michael Gould) and the Research Translation, Dissemination, and Policy Implications Subcommittee (Chair, Jeanne Rizzo).

state of the literature (both animal and human research); advances in breast cancer research supported or conducted by Federal agencies relevant to the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer (and related disorders); and identify research gaps.

The IBCERCC SOS Subcommittee held its tenth meeting, hosted by NIEHS and the NCI, via conference call on October 20, 2011. Attendees of the meeting included committee members, NIH staff, and the contractor from the Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. The meeting agenda included discussion on the following: updates on progress made in the advances, animal, and epidemiology sections, and action items and work assignments moving forward.

II. Discussion

Michele welcomed everyone to the call. Kathy Huamani from the Scientific Consulting Group introduced herself and requested that she be sent the documents that the group would be discussing during the call.

The group discussed the minutes that Laura McGuinn generated based on the discussions by the SOS during the breakout sessions at the September 26-27 in-person meeting. Michele noted that the section regarding formative research and the National Children's Study needs some editing. Sandy also noted that some of what was covered during the breakout sessions is not in the current draft of the Executive Summary. Many of the SOS members said that they have not had time to review the minutes because they were sent just a day before today's meeting. Michele requested that everyone review the minutes in detail and send edits to Jenny for compilation, correction, and then redistribution back out to the group.

The group also discussed the current draft of the Executive Summary. One term discussed extensively was the use of the words "phenotypic variation". The group did not come to consensus on a different term. Christine said that she would review this document again and edit over the next couple of days and send back to the group for review.

Next the group discussed the current version of the figure (1) comparing mammary gland development in mice, rats, and humans. Sue sent a revised version just before the conference call. The group suggested that the following changes be made to this particular figure:

- 1) The figure needs to be sourced. Kathy requested that Sue/Sandy send this information to her.
- 2) The figure still needs a figure legend (sources from #1 could be indicated here).
- 3) The group suggested a title as follows: "Comparison of the mammary gland and breast over the life course".
- 4) Sandy noted that the magnifications are not the same for all three species. The rat and mouse are the same, but the human images are presented at a higher magnification.
- 5) The figure does not depict cycling in human as it does in mice/rats. Sandy noted that this is similar in rats and humans and suggested that the image could straddle rats and humans. This would be similar to the straddling of the *in utero* image for mice and rats in the current version.
- 6) E₂ and P₂ needs to be explained for readers.
- 7) There are no images in the current version for pregnancy. Sandy will look and see if there are any images available for depicting this life stage.

The group moved on to discuss the graph presented in figure 2. The group discussed the following items for this figure:

- 1) The group noted that menopause is not depicted in this graphic. Michele proposed that adulthood (animals)/premenopausal state (humans) be shown in gray and then add another color for humans to show menopause. The graph would then go to 360 days on the left hand side and to 80+ years on the right hand side.
- 2) It was also suggested that the term “breast” be used instead of “mammary gland” in the legend.

Table 2 was discussed at length. Sandy guided the group through the hand written comments that Gwen Collman noted during the in-person meeting. Sue sent the group an updated version of this table in advance of the call that includes the incorporation of Gwen’s comments. Some of the comments could not be deciphered. Jenny will follow-up with Gwen regarding those. Sandy incorporated all changes proposed by the group during the call. Michele proposed an additional bullet for question #3 on the table that she will draft and send to Sandy for incorporation in this version. Sandy will add and then send back out to the group.

The last item discussed by the group was the table of progress that Neeraja and Janice have developed. The following changes were suggested:

- 1) All dates should be removed. The appendix will include illustrative references instead of dates.
- 2) The word “progress” should be used in the title and not “advances”.
- 3) Progress related to environmental exposures needs to be highlighted or called out in some way. The group noted that this could be done in the text, but did not determine the best way to do this on the table. Bolding of those items was proposed. Jenny highlighted perceived progress in this area on the table and then sent back out to the group. This item will be discussed in more detail during the next conference call.

The group ended the call by briefly discussing the introduction for the report. Michele will be revisiting the draft of this information later. In order to facilitate bringing the products from the subcommittees together in the report, Michele requested that Jenny begin setting up time for the Chairs to meet with Kathy Huamani. Jenny will start scheduling time for this purpose.

Action Items

- Subcommittee members will review the minutes from the breakout sessions during the September 26-27 in-person meeting and send edits to Jennifer Collins ahead of the next conference call.
- Jenny will incorporate edits into a new version of the minutes and redistribute to the group for final approval.
- Christine will review the Executive Summary and incorporate her edits and send back to the rest of the group.
- Jenny will ask Gwen for clarification regarding some of the notes she passed on to this group regarding Table 2.
- Michele will send Sandy an additional bullet for Table 2.
- Sandy will update Table 2 based on the discussion today, incorporate Michele’s additional bullet, and send back to the group.

- The group will review the progress made with regard to advances in BC&E on the progress table that Jenny highlighted and redistributed during the call and be prepared to discuss the best way to call out these items in the table during the next conference call.
- Jenny will schedule a time for the Chairs to meet with Kathy.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. on October 20, 2011.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and complete.

/Michele Forman/

Michele Forman, PhD

Chairperson

State-of-the-Science Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

/Gwen W. Collman/

Gwen W. Collman, PhD

Executive Secretary

Research Process Subcommittee

Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee

Proper signatures

Treat as signed, § 1.4(d)(2)